Krishi Vikash Yojna, Integrated Cereals Development Programme, etc. Further, for increasing agricultural production and productivity in the country, researches on the improvement of crops and development of production and protection technologies are being carried out. Some of the major steps are as follows:

- Enhancing the per hectare productivity through superior varieties having high diseases resistance and high yield in different crops.
- To evolve appropriate crop management practices and formulate efficient crop based cropping systems.
- Intensification of research on the development of commercially viable hybrid technology for achieving higher yield in various crops.
- Development of varieties/hybrids suitable for mechanization, particularly in sugarcane harvesting, cotton picking etc.
- Development of molecular techniques/tools and their application in crop breeding with emphasis on genetic engineering of crop plants.

Experiment by ARI to promote production

130. SHRI N.R. GOVINDARAJAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether contribution of agriculture sector in economic development of our country has been declining;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to ensure the benefits of successful experiments carried out at Agro Research Institutions in our country to reach the farmers at grass root level to promote agriculture in our country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) and (b) Yes, Madam. The percentage share of agriculture sector in Gross Domestic Product at constant (1999-2000) prices during the last three years is given below:

(Rupees in Crore)

Year	Agriculture	Total GDP	% contribution
2005-06	467984	2616101	17.9
2006-07	487010	2871120	17.0
2007-08	511274	3129717	16.3

(c) The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) carried out research on various aspects of agriculture through All-India Coordination Research Projects in State Agricultural Universities and its own ICAR institutes. A large number of field level demonstrations on farmers' fields are conducted to demonstrate the technologies at grass root level.

ICAR has a network of 567 Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVK) in the country. The KVKs aim at assessment, refinement and demonstration of the agricultural technology/products, besides conducting training of farmers and extension personnel.

A Centrally Sponsored Scheme "Support to State Extension Programmes for Extension Reforms" was launched during 2005-06 and aims at making the extension system farmer-driven and farmer-accountable by way of new institutional arrangement in the from of Agricultural Technology Management Agency (ATMA). ATMA has active participation of farmers, farmer groups, NGOs, KVK, Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) and other stakeholders operating at the district level and below. Over 90 lakh farmers have been benefited under the scheme since its implementation.

Decline in agricultural production

131. SHRI N. BALAGANGA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the fact that the agricultural production of our country has come down due to various reasons; and

(b) if so, the proposals envisaged by Government to increase the agricultural production?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) and (b) The agricultural production in the country has been increasing in the recent past. As compared to total production of 208.60 million tones during 2005-06 and 217.28 million tones during 2006-07, the production of foodgrains during 2007-08 and 2008-09 (3rd Advance Estimates) stood at 230.78 million tones and 229.85 million tones respectively.

In order to further increase the production of wheat, rice and pulses, the Government has introduced National Food Security Mission (NFSM) since November 2007. It aims at adding the production of rice by 10 million tonnes, wheat by 8 million tonnes and pulses by 2 million tonnes by the end of the Eleventh Plan, *i.e.*, by 2011-12 through area increase and productivity enhancement in targeted districts. Besides, the Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) with an objective to incentivise the States to increase investment in agriculture and allied sector has been launched.

In order to increase the production of cereals in the country, a Centrally Sponsored Scheme "Integrated Cereals Development Programme in Rice Based Cropping Systems Areas (ICDP-Rice), Integrated Cereals Development Programme in Wheat Based Cropping Systems Areas (ICDP-Wheat) and Integrated Cereals Development Programme in Coarse Cereals Based Cropping Systems Areas (ICDP-Coarse Cereals)" subsumed under Macro Management Mode of Agriculture with effect from October 2000 are under implementation to provide more flexibility to States based on local needs.

In order to increase the production and productivity of oilseeds and pulses, a Centrally Sponsored Scheme "Integrated Scheme of Oilseeds, Pulses, Oil Palm and Maize" (ISOPOM) is being implemented since 01.04.2004.